THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government is contemplating legislation in the matter.

(d) The matter is under examination.

Upgradation of radio stations in Orissa

1261. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has made a proposal for upgradation of radio stations at Berhampur in Ganjam Distt. and Sambalpurto enable the Oriya speaking population of the adjoining areas to listen to the Oriya programmes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of LPTs in the State are not functioning properly on account of shortage of staff;

(c) if so, whether the Centre has taken appropriate action in the matter to upgrade the radio stations and fill up the vacant posts; and

(d) if not, the time-frame within which it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) All the LPTs in Orissa are reported to be functioning properly with the exception of one LPT which is relaying partial transmission due to non availability of adequate staff.

(c) and (d) 20 KW MW Radio Station at AIR Sambalpur has been upgraded to 100 KW MW Station on 14.07.1998 to provide adequate-radio coverage in Sambalpur and adjoining areas comprising major parts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sonepur, Bolangir and Baudh districts. It also provides coverage in parts of Bilaspur, Saraipalli, Raigarh and Ambikapur districts of Chhattisgarh. Necessary action is being taken to fill-up the vacant posts as per guidelines.